

Office Memorandum

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

BASIC

TO : Dr. S. Olansky
FROM : Dr. S. Schuman

DATE: Dec. 10, 1951

SUBJECT: Chamberlee Conference with Mrs. Gleeson and Miss Rambo
on December 7, 1951

After a week of first hand observation of the clinical set-up at Tuskegee, of the accumulated files and of present recording methods, Mrs. Gleeson made the following suggestions in which we whole-heartedly concurred:

- (1)- A summary work-sheet outlining and summarizing the pertinent facts from previous and present examinations of each patient on one single page should be in the front of each chart. A suitable form was devised; carbon copies of these will be made for the files in Washington and in Chamberlee, as well as for Dr. Peters, to be used for reference when performing or describing an autopsy. The need for a local secretary to make up such work-sheets was clear.
- (2)-A description and analysis of the background statistics of this study will be prepared by Mrs. Gleeson and her staff, showing the numbers of patients included in the study, those added, those withdrawn, those treated. Later, breakdown into controls and syphilitics and into duration of luetic infection and date and amount of treatment will have to be done.
- (3)-Serologic reports on Tuskegee patients will be sent regularly to Dr. J. Cutler for his serology studies.
- (4)-An increase in the allotment from the Milbank Fund from \$50.00 to \$100.00 was felt to be not only necessary, but overdue. Local undertakers and families of our patients need this financial encouragement before they will really cooperate with post-mortem examinations. A suggestion was offered for a simple receipt-plan for recording the distribution of each allotment. It was suggested that the \$100.00 be divided in three(3) parts:
 - \$50.00 to family of deceased
 - \$25.00 to undertaker (bonus)
 - \$25.00 to Dr. Peters, pathologist.This suggestion has been forwarded under separate cover to Dr. Bauer and to the attention of Miss E. Walker.

- (5) -It was suggested that the accumulated E.K.G. records from the 1939 and 1943 examinations together with the new records could be separated from the charts and read. These records have never been interpreted, and this might be begun at this time. At a later date, when criteria for diagnosis of syphilitic heart disease are set-up and applied to this study, our charts would be more complete if the E.K.G.'s had been already read.
- (6) -X-Rays from previous examinations have been found and are being read in comparison with present films on all patients.
- (7) -Possibilities and opportunities were discussed for Mr. Lloyd Simpson, our investigator, to compile a report on the socio-economic background of our syphilitic and our control patients in the course of his present assignment. This would provide valuable background to the medical findings in the study. Facts for such a paper are already being collected routinely as part of the medical history questionnaire.

The conference was attended by Miss Rambo, who is now familiar with these statistical plans, and who will be able to assist in their execution directly from Chamblee.

The visit made by Mrs. Gleeson was most fruitful to the improvement of our records and general efficiency. She also made a valuable contribution to our good public relations at the V.A. Hospital by giving a fine lecture on December 4, 1951 to the resident house-staff and attending physicians on "The Value of Statistics to the Average Doctor and Their Application by the U.S. Public Health Service Today." Her visit was most timely and should prove of great value to the entire project.

c/c Dr. T. Bauer
Mrs. Gleeson
Dr. J. Cutler